

REMARKS

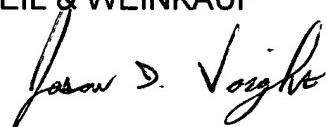
Claims 13-21 are pending.

Claims 13-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 13 to make it clear that the hydrophilic measurement zones (2) are surrounded by hydrophobic zones (1) which are in turn separated from one another by hydrophilic discontinuities (5). **See Figs. 1-2.** The specification also mentions discontinuities at page 3, lines 31-32.

Claims 13-17 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b,e) as being anticipated by Goodwin (U.S. 5,284,753) or Rava et al. (U.S. 5,545,531). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Goodwin or Rava et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. As explained in the specification, a non-continuous hydrophobic coating has “discontinuities” which create separate hydrophobic zones (1) around the measurement zones (2) (see specification page 3, lines 29-32; page 4, lines 16-20; Figures 1-4). In contrast, the cited art does not teach of discontinuities in the coating between the test wells to create separate hydrophobic zones.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to deposit account 11.0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KEIL & WEINKAUF



Jason D. Voight
Reg. No. 42,205

1350 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 659-0100